

## pet safety

# CANINE INFLUENZA

**Highly contagious canine influenza, or dog flu,** can affect dogs of any breed, age, sex or health status.

It is caused by the canine influenza virus (CIV) and can occur year-round. Almost all dogs exposed to the virus become infected, and the majority (80% of infected dogs) develop flu-like illness. CIV is not contagious to people.

### CONCERNS:

The canine influenza virus travels from infected dogs to uninfected dogs through:

- Direct contact
- Coughing, barking and sneezing
- Contaminated objects: clothing, kennel surfaces, food and water bowls, collars and leashes
- People handling or moving between infected and uninfected dogs

### SYMPTOMS:

Range from mild to severe: persistent coughing, sneezing, nasal or eye discharge, lethargy, reduced appetite and fever

### COMPLICATIONS:

Secondary bacterial infection can develop and may cause more severe illness and pneumonia.

### PREVENTION:

- Talk to your veterinarian about your dog's risk of exposure and if the canine influenza vaccine is right for your dog
- Avoid exposing your dog to obviously sick dogs
- If there is a CIV outbreak in your area, avoid taking your dog to areas where dogs gather
- If your dog shows signs of illness, isolate it from other dogs and seek veterinary care
- Wash your hands after handling any dog and especially after handling a sick dog
- Do not share equipment or toys between sick and apparently healthy dogs

### TREATMENT:

- Provide supportive care to keep the dog as comfortable as possible
- Medications may be necessary for severe illness or secondary bacterial infections

### RECOVERY:

Most dogs recover within 2-3 weeks.



For more information visit:  
[AVMA.org/CanineFlu](https://www.avma.org/CanineFlu)